

RICHTER PARK AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
@ Danbury Police Department
Tuesday, September 21 2021, 6:00 PM

In compliance with Connecticut General Statute § 1-225, these minutes are being provided for informational purposes and are subject to approval of the Richter Park Authority Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.

Chairman Pete Siecienski opened the meeting at 6:17 PM.

Members present: Pete Siecienski, John Priola, Al Mead, Bob Eberhard, Paul DiNardo (taking Leroy Diggs place), Judy Griemsmann and Dave Lajoie.

Also present: Karen Madaus, Business Manager, Jonathan Pinto, Head Golf Professional, Rob Dorsch, Golf Course Superintendent and Bobby Bria, Musicals at Richter.

Absent: Wendy Grispin, George Radachowsky, Leroy Diggs and Felix Bonacci.

Public participation

Jill Kuhn, Richter Arts Association: There is a concern over the caretaking of the Richter House, and the piano is dying from mold.

Approve minutes of previous meetings

Mr. Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17th RPA meeting, as well as the Special Election meeting on September 1st. Mr. Lajoie seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Correspondence

Harry Trohalis sent an email to be presented to the RPA with some suggestions for the golf course. Mr. Mead made a motion to accept the email and refer it to the Grounds and Greens Committee. Mr. Lajoie seconded. Mr. Dorsch commented on the points mentioned in the email, and the RPA discussed it fully.

Motion was withdrawn.

Arts Association

The fall season has started with only outdoor performances so far. The 42nd Juried Art Show will be Saturday, October 16th, Sunday, October 17th and Sunday, October 24th. A \$1,000 Supporting Arts grant was received. Thank you to Mr. Dorsch for his attention to issues. Mr. Priola wants people reminded not to park on the front lawn of the Richter house.

Musicals at Richter

We are in off-season. Bobby Bria will remain the Director for MAR next year. The master plan money will be sent to Karen, and we are starting to look at shows for next year.

MPC-Richter House

The MPC met earlier in the summer and began to look through the Master Plan itself. There were some things they wanted to focus on at the time, including parking and the Richter House. The parking is done but the future plans for the Richter House are still unknown. The MPC would like a copy of the grant request sent to the City and wants to see their response to educate themselves on the intentions that were determined. They would like to see things get done, although Steve Nocera, who was working on the project, is no longer with the City and hasn't been replaced yet. Mr. Eberhard told Ms. Griemsmann to file an FOI with the City to request documents.

FORe

The fundraising breakfast was postponed until May 2022, with Lloyd Cutsumpas as the keynote speaker. Mr. Pinto stated that some engraved bricks have been installed and look great.

Business Manager's Report

We are currently very busy with outings, and they will continue into October.

Head Golf Professional

We are knee-deep in outings, as some earlier ones have moved to the fall. It's been rainy, but rounds are still good, and we're ahead of last year. The Pro Shop is doing well and passes sold very nicely too. The driving range numbers are down slightly, but that's probably due to all of the rain.

Grounds and Greens

We've had just under 15" of rain since the last RPA meeting. Drainage on 11 and 14 is an issue. There are currently a lot of small projects getting done, but leaves are coming. The irrigation system will get blown out on November 6th.

Mr. Dorsch was talking about needing to put some money into the golf course, including tee leveling and completing the bunker project, which will total around \$177K. He will need to speak with contractors. Tees are a priority over bunkers. The synthetic line on the driving range needs to be replaced as well.

Financial report

Mr. Priola stated that some numbers regarding the parking lot paving project needed to be adjusted in QuickBooks. We are doing better financially than last year. We still need to keep some reserves for the winter. Since financials will be adjusted tomorrow, he asked that no motion be made to accept the current financial reports.

Finance Committee Report

No report.

Chairman's Comments/Report

Committee assignments: Mr. Radachowsky will step down as Chairman of the Grounds and Greens Committee and Mr. Mead will be Chairman. Mr. Lajoie and Mr. DiNardo will be added as well. The Finance Committee will now be Mr. Diggs (Chairman), with Mr. Priola and Mr. Lajoie on the Committee as well. Other Committees will be looked at and some other changes may be made.

There has been a communication problem with all of the associations and Mr. Siecienski would like to do a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) evaluation within our organization. Thank you to the staff and Authority for your support.

Old business

none.

New business

Felix Bonacci is currently an alternate on the RPA and it was brought up to remove him as an alternate, honor him as an Emeritus, and get a new alternate on the RPA. Mr. Mead spoke to Felix and he is in agreement. If this is the case, he plans to be at the October 19th meeting. Mr. Priola suggested dedicating the walkway earlier, on 10/19. Mr. Mead made a motion to name Felix Bonacci Emeritus of the RPA. Mr. Eberhard seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Mead made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm. Mr. Eberhard seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**